



Faces of Public Health in Alaska:

A Strategic Plan for 2004-2006

*Presented to
the Alaska Health Summit by:*

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Challenges Facing Alaska's Public Health System:

- Protecting and promoting the public's health with diminishing resources
- Workforce shortages
- Emerging infectious diseases
- Access to care
- Control of chronic diseases

1. The premier challenge for Alaska's Division of Public Health is to continue to protect and promote the public health in Alaska with diminishing resources and infrastructure development.
2. Components of that challenge include emerging infectious diseases, access to care, strong injury prevention efforts, control of chronic diseases, issues with public health infrastructure, and other problems such as sexually transmitted diseases, tobacco use, and teen pregnancy.
3. The Division of Public Health has developed seven goals to accomplish its mission as efficiently and effectively as possible. Each goal has a set of strategies and measurements that will be used to measure how well the division is staying the course set for the future of public health in Alaska. All of our identified strategies and measures are critical. I have highlighted what I believe are the key strategies and measures for each goal as follows:



Mission:

“The mission of the Division of Public Health is to protect and promote the health of all people in Alaska through partnerships and the delivery of services that individuals, organizations, or communities, acting alone, cannot provide.”



Accountability
Respect
Human Potential
Integrity
Scientific Excellence

Accountability – We are committed to responsible use of human, financial and environmental resources.

Respect – We provide services without discrimination or judgment.

Human Potential – We are committed to developing each Alaskan's potential as a healthy individual, as well as fostering strong, healthy communities.

Integrity – We are honest and ethical in all we do.

Scientific Excellence – We are committed to adding to and contributing to the body of scientific knowledge and using the best available knowledge and data to set public health policy.



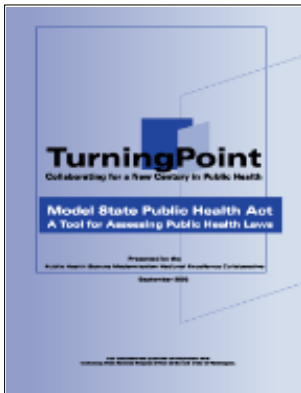
Vision:

“Alaskans enjoy optimum health and safety through achieving greater public, community and personal responsibility for healthy conditions and choices.”

We won't achieve better health status until people take greater responsibility for the choices they make in their individual lives.

Goal One:

Prevent and Control Epidemics and the Spread of Infectious Disease



Strategy:

Review and update legal authority for disease reporting, investigation, isolation/quarantine, and contact investigation to assure public health authority is well defined in State statutes and regulations.

Measure:

Updated public health law passed by May 2005.

Goal One: Prevent and Control Epidemics and the Spread of Infectious Disease

- **Strategy:** Work with the Commissioner, the Attorney General, and the Legislature to review/update legal authority for disease reporting, investigation, isolation/quarantine, and contact investigation to assure public health authority is well defined in State statutes and regulations.
 - **Measure:** Develop and implement companion regulations by December 2004.

Goal Two:

Prevent and Control Injuries

Strategy:

Partner with key agencies throughout Alaska to develop, implement and maintain services and programs that increase prevention activities such as child safety seat inspection.

Measure:

The unintentional injury death rate to 50 incidences or less per 100,000.



Goal Two: Prevent and Control Injuries

- **Strategy:** Partner with key agencies throughout Alaska to develop, implement and maintain services and programs that increase prevention activities such as child safety seat inspection.
 - **Measure:** The unintentional injury death rate it 50 incidences or less per 100,000.

Goal Three:

Prevent and Control Chronic Disease and Disabilities

Strategy:

Reduce the major modifiable risk factors for cardiovascular disease and the leading cancers.

Measure:

Specific measures of reduction in prevalence of smoking and obesity and reduction in diabetes death rate



Goal Three: Prevent and Control Chronic Disease and Disabilities

- **Strategy:** Reduce the major modifiable risk factors for cardiovascular disease and the leading cancers. For cardiovascular disease, focus will be specifically placed on tobacco use, high cholesterol, diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity. For the leading cancers, increase the use of proven, appropriate cancer screening tests for breast, colorectal, lung and cervical cancers.
 - **Measure:** The number of Alaskan adults who smoke is less than 25 percent of the adult population; the death rate due to diabetes in Alaska is 70 incidences or less per 100,000; realize a 4.3 percent decrease in the number of overweight and obese adults in Alaska by June 2005



Respond to Disasters

Strategy:

Establish a cross-agency workgroup to prepare the public health system partners to respond to disasters through development of a Public Health Emergency Operations Plan.

Measure:

By June 2005, the public health disaster response plan completed; by June 2006, 25 percent of all Division of Public Health staff and public health system partners will be trained in disaster response techniques and procedures.

Goal Four: Respond to Disasters

- **Strategy:** Establish a cross-agency workgroup to prepare the Division of Public Health and Alaska's public health system partners to respond to disasters through development of a Public Health Emergency Operations Plan.
 - **Measure:** By June 2005, the public health disaster response plan, with tabletop exercises to test the plan completed and analyzed, is in place; by June 2006, 25 percent of all Division of Public Health staff and public health system partners will be trained in disaster response techniques and procedures.



Goal Five:

Assure Access to Early Preventative Services and Quality Health Care

Strategy:

Collaborate with the federal Department of Health and Human Services, the Indian Health Service, and the Denali Commission to develop an approach to fund identified gaps in the health system.

Measure:

By June 2005 establish a minimum of one pilot project for cross-program and cross-agency collaboration. Identify a minimum of two programs for process improvement in FY 2005, and a minimum of two more programs in FY 2006.

Goal Five: Assure Access to Early Preventative Services and Quality Health Care

- **Strategy:** Collaborate with the federal Department of Health and Human Services, the Indian Health Service, and the Denali Commission to develop an approach to fund identified gaps in the public health system, and to develop an allocation proposal for the most cost effective deployment of health facilities operational and capital improvement funding.
- Establish a pilot project and steering group to manage fund allocations based on one set of standards, requiring cross-program and cross-agency collaboration and integrated approaches to funding for public health at the community, regional, and state level.
 - **Measure:** By June 2005 establish a minimum of one pilot project for cross-program and cross-agency collaboration. Identify a minimum of two programs for process improvement in FY 2005, and a minimum of two more programs in FY 2006.

Goal Six:

Protect Against Environmental Hazards Impacting Human Health



Strategy:

Develop, maintain and strengthen surveillance of exposures to environmental hazards.

Measure:

Develop and implement protocols by June 2005 to test biomonitoring program participants.

Goal Six: Protect Against Environmental Hazards Impacting Human Health

- **Strategy:** Develop, maintain and strengthen surveillance of exposures to environmental hazards; develop the laboratory capacity to measure human specimens for heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), cotinine, and other chemicals.
 - **Measure:** Develop and implement protocols by June 2005 to test biomonitoring program participants, and a process for measuring/monitoring those participants having unsafe levels of environmental toxins.



Goal Seven:

Ensure Effective and Efficient Management and Administration of Public Health

Strategy:

Consolidate the department's certification and licensing programs/responsibilities.

Measure:

Phase One of the certification and licensing consolidation will be fully implemented in the Division of Public Health in FY 2005.

Phase Two of the certification and licensing consolidation will be fully implemented in the Division of Public Health in FY 2006.

Goal Seven: Ensure Effective and Efficient Management and Administration of Public Health

- **Strategy:** Successfully implement Executive Order 108 relating to the consolidation of the department's certification and licensing programs/responsibilities.
- Work with the Department of Law to rewrite a minimalist statutory framework for the department's certification and licensing programs, with more of the detailed standards to be written into regulations that are well coordinated and standardized to the highest degree possible across divisions and other affected state agencies.
 - **Measure:** Phase One of the certification and licensing consolidation (i.e., licensing functions relating to health and medical services) will be fully implemented in the Division of Public Health in FY 2005. Phase Two of the certification and licensing consolidation (i.e., licensing functions relating to "social services" such as foster care and child care licensing) will be fully implemented in the Division of Public Health in FY 2006.



For More Information:

*The Division of Public Health
Strategic Plan will soon be available at:*
<http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/director/>